



Summary of Natural Hazard Statistics for 2002 in the United States



This National Weather Service (NWS) report summarizes fatalities, injuries and damages caused by severe weather in 2002. The NWS Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services and the National Climatic Data Center compiled this *Summary of U.S. Natural Hazard Statistics* from Storm Data, a report comprising statistics from NWS forecast offices in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

Summary of 2002 Weather Events, Fatalities, Injuries, and Damage Costs

LAST UPDATED : 11/12/2003

<u>Weather Event</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>	<u>Injuries</u>	<u>Amount of Property Damage (M)</u>	<u>Amount of Crop Damage (M)</u>	<u>Total Prop/Crop Damage (M)</u>
<u>Convection</u>					
Lightning	51	256	\$ 43.5	\$ 0.0	\$ 43.5
Tornado	55	968	801.3	0.8	802.1
Tstm Wind	17	287	289.8	54.7	344.5
Hail	0	125	325.2	153.8	479.0
<u>Extreme Temperatures</u>					
Cold	11	0	0.3	70.4	70.7
Heat	167	378	0.0	0.0	0.0
<u>Flood</u>					
Flash Flood	38	74	329.6	44.8	374.4
River Flood	7	5	322.8	37.7	360.5
Small Stream/Urban Flood	4	9	2.6	0.0	2.6
<u>Marine</u>					
Coastal Storm	11	8	0.3	0.0	0.3
Tsunami	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rip Current	43	60	0.1	0.0	0.1
<u>Tropical Cyclones</u>					
Tropical Storm/Hurricane	51	346	1,104.4	278.0	1,382.4
<u>Winter</u>					
Winter Storm	17	105	752.0	0.0	752.0
Ice	0	0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Avalanche	15	11	0.0	0.0	0.0
<u>Other</u>					
Drought	0	0	0.0	737.6	737.6
Dust Storm	2	45	0.4	0.0	0.4
Dust Devil	0	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rain	1	1	0.8	1.1	1.9
Fog	19	143	3.5	0.0	3.5
High Wind	28	129	82.9	33.5	116.4
Waterspout	0	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fire Weather	1	138	200.8	2.0	202.8
Mud Slide	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Volcanic Ash	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	2	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTALS	540	3090	\$4,260.4M	\$1,414.4M	\$5,674.8M

Summary of 2002 Natural Hazard Statistics

In 2002, there were 540 weather-related fatalities, a significant increase from 464 in 2001, but below the 10-year average (1993-2002) of 634. As in the previous 4 years, extreme heat ranked as the number one weather-related killer in the United States with 167 deaths (31%). In 2002, tornadoes caused the second highest number of fatalities with 55 (10%), followed by tropical storms/hurricanes, 51 (9%), and lightning, 51 (9%).

Weather-related injuries rose moderately in 2002 to 3,090, from 2,718 in 2001. Tornadoes and heat caused the greatest number of injuries with 968 (31%) and 378 (12%), respectively.

In 2002, severe weather caused \$5.7 billion in damages. Tropical storms and hurricanes resulted in nearly \$1.4 billion in property and crop losses and tornadoes had \$802 million.

Louisiana suffered damages of \$832 million from two tropical cyclones – Hurricane Lili in October and Tropical Storm Isidore in September. Nebraska was hit with \$633 million from drought and Guam with nearly \$492 million from tropical cyclones.

Of the 540 weather-related fatalities, 338 were males (63%) and 155 were females (29%). Men in the 40- to 59-age range accounted for 35% of the male fatalities. Women in the 60- to 89-age group accounted for 39% of the female fatalities. Forty-seven fatalities are unknown when Tropical Storm Chataan struck Chuuk in Micronesia (Guam's area of responsibility) and caused devastating mudslides.

July was the deadliest month with 181 fatalities, 138 of which were from excessive heat.

In 2002, Guam (Chuuk in Micronesia) had the highest number of deaths with 55; Maryland had 54, and Illinois, 52. Topping the injuries list was Missouri with 405, California with 362, and Guam, 360.

As in the previous 4 years, extreme heat ranked as the number one weather killer in the United States. The 10-year average for heat-related deaths is 235; for cold, 26. The 30-year average (1973-2002) for floods is 110; lightning, 69; tornadoes, 66; and hurricanes, 14.

2002 Summary of all Natural Hazards

2002 SUMMARY OF FATALITIES FOR ALL HAZARDS BY AGE AND GENDER

	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
0 TO 9	10	10	0	20	4
10 TO 19	13	22	0	35	6
20 TO 29	18	35	0	53	10
30 TO 39	21	47	0	68	13
40 TO 49	17	60	0	77	14
50 TO 59	10	59	0	69	13
60 TO 69	19	36	0	55	10
70 TO 79	26	30	0	56	10
80 TO 89	16	17	0	33	6
90 TO --	3	5	0	8	1
UNKNOWN	2	17	47	66	12
TOTAL	155	338	47	540	100
PERCENT	29	63	9	100	

2002 MONTHLY WEATHER RELATED FATALITIES

